

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 124000

R 300924Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8806

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, ECON, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE EMIGRATION: GERMAN BAN

REF: LISBON A-189 OCTOBER 15, 1973

1. THE ANNOUNCEMENT NOVEMBER 23 THAT THE FRG WOULD RESTRICT FOREIGN LABOR INFLOWS FROM NON-EEC COUNTRIES TOOK THE GOP BY SURPRISE. IN CONVERSATION NOVEMBER 28 WITH CHARGE, COUNSELOR OF FRG EMBASSY REPORTED PORTUGUESE OFFICIAL REACTION TO GERMAN BAN. GOP FONMIN PATRICIO EXPRESSED DISMAY TO GERMANS AND PROTESTED THAT BAN JEOPARDIZES VITAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE INCOME WITHOUT WHICH PORTUGAL WOULD BE FORCED INTO CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT. FRG COUNSELOR ADDED THAT LOCAL CONTRACTING WAS TERMINATED IN MID-STRIDE AND LISBON RECRUITMENT OFFICE CLOSED NOVEMBER 27. RECRUITS WHO HAD BEEN ISSUED CONTRACTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 26 ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE. ALL CONTRACTED WORKERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO FINISH OUT 1-YEAR CONTRACTS IN GERMANY OR, IF LAID OFF, MAY CLAIM

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UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DURING REMAINDER OF CONTRACT PERIOD.

2. COMMENT: REPORTED GOP COMPLAINT ALONG LINES OF  
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IS INTERESTING REVELATION OF HIDDEN  
FACE OF GOP EMIGRATION POLICY. IN CONTRAST TO SITUATION  
IN FRANCE, WHERE PORTUGUESE EMIGRATION HAS MATURED TO  
STAGE AT WHICH MANY DEPENDENTS HAVE JOINED WAGE-EARNERS,  
GERMAN LABOR MARKET HAS DEVELOPED ONLY IN PAST 18  
MONTHS AND EMIGRANTS ARE PREDOMINANTLY BACHELORS OR  
WAGE-EARNERS WHOSE DEPENDENTS NOT PERMITTED TO JOIN  
THEM ABROAD. THEREFORE REMITTANCES FROM FRG PRO-  
PORTIONATELY GREATER PER WORKER. MARK FOREIGN EXCHANGE  
EXTREMELY WELCOME IN PORTUGAL.

3. SPECTRE OF LARGE-SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT OF PORTUGUESE  
EMIGRANTS IN NORTHERN EUROPE AS RESULT PETROLEUM EMBARGO,  
AND POSSIBLE REFLUX OF WORKERS TO PORTUGAL INDEED  
NIGHTMARISH FOR PORTUGUESE ECONOMY. GOP COULD NEITHER  
EMPLOY THIS WORKFORCE NOR CONTINUE TO FUND AFRICAN  
MILITARY EFFORT AT CURRENT LEVELS WITHOUT THEIR  
REMITTED EARNINGS. DEVALUATION OF THE ESCUDO IS  
CONCEIVABLE IN SUCH A PREDICAMENT. PATRICIO'S  
COMPLAINT OFFERS GLIMPSE THAT EMIGRATION ALTHOUGH  
PUBLICLY DECRIED IS A RECOGNIZED CORNERSTONE OF  
THE ECONOMY AND BY EXTENSION, OF THE AFRICAN POLICY.  
POST

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## Message Attributes

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